



Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PS16

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Problem

Lead poisoning can cause irreversible damage to the developing brains and organ systems of young children, especially those under 6 years of age. Approximately two million children are at risk of lead poisoning because they live in California's 2.2 million older, lead-painted housing units. Additionally, lead from past use of leaded fuels has contaminated soil where young children play.

In California, approximately 128,000 young children have harmful levels of lead in their blood, among them 38,000 who need individual services to end their lead poisoning.

The Program

California's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) program is both a children's and an environmental health program. DHS's CLPP Branch funds and works in partnership with local public and environmental health departments to detect, manage, and prevent childhood lead poisoning by providing case management for each lead-poisoned child and environmental investigations to determine and eliminate the sources of the child's exposure.

The long-term goal of the CLPP program is to eliminate lead from environments where children live and play so that they do not become poisoned. State and local programs work collaboratively with other children's health and nutrition programs, educational and social service entities, health and child care providers (and their professional organizations), housing programs, and building inspection and permitting agencies to decrease the risk of lead exposure among children.

CLPP Program Funding

Current year (2000-2001) funding in the amount of \$3.8 million supports core program activities, and \$8.5 million supports the local health departments' provision of direct services to children. An additional \$3.6 million funds the testing of children's blood to determine the presence of lead poisoning.